

EXTREME TEMPERATURES

DEFINITION – Extreme cold temperatures drop well below what is considered normal for an area during the winter months and often accompany winter storm events. Combined with increases in wind speed, such temperatures in Pennsylvania can be life threatening to those exposed for extended periods of time. Extreme heat can be described as temperatures that hover 10°F or more above the average high temperature for a region during the summer months. Extreme heat is responsible for more deaths in Pennsylvania than all other natural disasters combined (Lawrence County, PA HMP, 2004).



MITIGATION ACTIONS FOR RESIDENTS

- ▶ **Personal Preparedness** – It is important to plan for disasters. Families may not be together or at home. Consider completing the following to be prepared.
 - **Family Emergency Communication Plan** (FEMA) serves as a comprehensive checklist for household disaster preparedness. [FEMA Family Emergency Communication Plan Checklist](#)
 - **Family Disaster Plan** (American Red Cross) – Communication networks and electricity could be disrupted. Planning in advance will help ensure that all the members of your household know how to reach each other and where to meet up in an emergency. [American Red Cross Family Disaster Plan Template](#)
 - **Emergency Kits** – It is always a good idea to have an emergency kit on hand. Consider basic items as well as special needs.
 Build a Kit (Ready.gov) [ready.gov Build-a-Kit](#)
 Survival Kit Supplies (American Red Cross) [American Red Cross Survival Kit Supplies Checklist](#)
- ▶ **Emergency Alerts and Warnings** – To receive emergency alerts and warnings, refer to the following websites, mobile apps, and other resources.
 - **American Red Cross Mobile Apps** (Apple App Store, Google Play, or text to “90999” [Mobile Apps - The American Red Cross](#)
 - **South Central Alert** – This service allows residents and businesses in an eight county area to be notified of an emergency situation and important alert messages in a variety of ways, including on their cell phones, home and work phones, by text messaging and e-mail. [South Central Alert - Sign Up](#)
 - Monitor police news feeds, weather, and news on social media or websites. Receiving periodic updates is vital.
- ▶ **Awareness** – Educate self on how to prepare and protect from the impacts of extreme [cold](#) and [heat](#).

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- ▶ **Vulnerable Populations** – Be aware of and offer to assist neighbors who may be at risk during these events.



MITIGATION ACTIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

- ▶ **Adopt the York County Hazard Mitigation Plan** by resolution or develop and implement a municipal hazard mitigation plan. [York County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
- ▶ **Prepare a Continuity of Operations Plan** to ensure that essential functions continue to be performed under a broad range of circumstances, protecting residents and minimizing business interruption. Consider what capital improvements are needed to adequately protect business or properties. [FEMA Continuity of Operations Brochure](#)
- ▶ **Prepare an Emergency Operations Plan** which describe who will do what, as well as when, with what resources, and by what authority – before, during, and immediately after an emergency. [FEMA Guide for All Hazards Emergency Operations Planning Guide](#)
- ▶ **Coordination** – Develop pre-disaster Memorandums of Agreements or Memorandum of Understanding with adjacent jurisdictions. Build partnerships (neighborhoods, emergency management/first responders, businesses, utility service providers, and local government agencies to strengthen response and recovery.
- ▶ **Public Education and Outreach** – Educating residents regarding risk and impact of hazards, how to prepare and protect themselves and their property including how to protect and locate pipes correctly, and letting a faucet drip during extreme cold to prevent freezing. Facilitate funding for mitigation measures and technical assistance programs that address measures that citizens can take.
- ▶ **Awareness** – A local government can organize outreach to vulnerable populations during periods of extreme temperature, including establishing and promoting accessible heating or cooling centers in the community.
- ▶ **Heating Requirements** – Housing/landlord codes can require minimum temperatures.
- ▶ **Reduce Urban Heat Island** – Increase tree plantings around buildings, parking lots, and public right-of-ways, encourage the use of green roofs, and using products that reflect sunlight and heat away from buildings.